

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DECLARING JUROR APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS, Trial by jury is a cornerstone of our freedom and indispensable to justice in our society, being, therefore, guaranteed in the Sixth and Seventh Amendments of the United States Constitution, applicable to the States through the Fourteenth Amendment, and in Articles 5, 21, and 23 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights; and

WHEREAS, Jury service is a privilege and responsibility of every citizen, affording direct participation in, and guarantee of, our justice; and

WHEREAS, Law Day was instituted in 1958 by Presidential proclamation, to strengthen our heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law, and was formalized in 1961 by Congress, providing in 36 U. S. C. § 113, for “a special day of celebration by the people of the United States ... in appreciation of their liberties and the reaffirmation of their loyalty to the United States and of their rededication to the ideals of equality and justice under law in their relations with each other and with other countries” and “for the cultivation of the respect for law that is so vital to the democratic way of life”; and

WHEREAS, The theme for Law Day 2005 is “The American Jury: We the People in Action”, in acknowledgment of the vital role of the jury system as the bulwark against tyranny in the event of unjust government and the importance of educating our fellow citizens about the rewards and benefits of jury service;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, do hereby:

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1. Proclaim May 2 to 6, 2005 to be Juror Appreciation Week in recognition of the citizens who have devoted, and will devote, their time and energies to deciding issues of significance to the lives, liberties, and property of others; and
2. Direct the establishment of a website for the Maryland Judiciary dedicated to the dissemination of information useful in encouraging jury service; and
3. Urge members of the Maryland Bar and their associations, businesses, citizens, media, and schools in Maryland to use this week to dedicate themselves to the preservation and strengthening of the jury system and to expressing appreciation for those citizens who answer the call to jury service.

/s/ Robert M. Bell

Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge

Filed: April 5, 2005

/s/ Alexander L. Cummings

Alexander L. Cummings
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland